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ABSTRACT

In 1974, Pennsylvania began data collection on veteran-inmates of its eight correctional institutions to assist them in taking advantage of veterans' educational benefits. A detailed interagency chronology of the efforts of the State Education, Correction, and Military Affairs Departments and the Veterans Administration is contained in the report. Of a total of 6,039 inmates, 1,521 veterans were identified. A stratified random sampling was made to estimate percentage of bad conduct, dishonorable, and undesirable discharges; percentage with Army service; average duration of active duty; average minimum sentence length; average educational grade level; percentage of blacks; number of prior offenses; and offense types. A 100 percent sampling indicated military service by war era and eligibility/noneligibility for GI educational benefits. The average age for veterans was 33.6 years with a 10th-11th grade level of education; total inmate population age was 27 years with a fifth grade educational level. Approximately 54.4 percent veteran-inmates attended small group benefits briefings. The most prevalent request for assistance was institutional skill training/education. Intensive followup is planned in order to significantly increase veterans' participation in educational programs. (EA)

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CHARACTERISTICS AND NEEDS OF VETERAN-INMATES IN PENNSYLVANIA STATE CORRECTIONAL INSTITUTIONS

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SUMMARY

The purpose of the study is to determine characteristics and needs of veteran-inmates in Pennsylvania state correctional institutions.

The conclusions derived from the study follow:

1. Approximately 25% or 1521 inmates incarcerated in 8 state prisons are veterans.
2. Approximately 4.8% of veteran-inmates received a dishonorable discharge from the military service.
3. Approximately 26.8% of veteran-inmates received an undesirable, bad conduct, or dishonorable discharge from the military service.
4. Approximately 61% of veteran-inmates served in the Army.
5. Average months of active duty of veteran-inmates was 33.2.
6. Average length of minimum sentence of veteran-inmates is 4 years.
7. Average age of veteran-inmates is 33.6 years.
8. Average grade level of education of veteran-inmates is 10.7 years.
9. Fifty-two per cent of veteran-inmates are black.
10. On the average 64% of veteran-inmates had no prior offense, 14% had 1 prior offense, and 22% had 2 prior offenses or more.
11. On the average burglary and robbery are the most

predominant offenses of veteran-inmates.

12. Fifty-two per cent of veteran-inmates are Vietnam era; 20% are post-Korean but pre-Vietnam era; 10% are Korean era; 10% are post WWII but pre-Korean era, or not separated from military service, or information is not available; 8% are WWII veterans.

13. Fifty per cent of veteran-inmates are eligible for Vietnam era GI Bill educational benefits; 21% are ineligible for educational benefits because of a less-than-general discharge; 8% are ineligible for educational benefits because they are WWII veterans; 7% are ineligible for educational benefits because they are not separated from the military service or are temporarily considered ineligible because discharge information is not available; 6% are ineligible for educational benefits because they are Korean conflict veterans; 6% are ineligible for educational benefits because they have served less than 181 days active duty; 2% are ineligible for educational benefits because they are post-WWII but pre-Korean conflict veterans.

14. Veteran-inmates assessed their needs revealing that institutional skill training was most prevalent; the second next most prevalent need was securing post-release state or federal grants or loans for education; the third most prevalent need was using

GI Bill benefits while incarcerated.

RECOMMENDATIONS

Based upon experiences gained in conducting this study, recommendations are offered in the form of supporting the detailed inter-agency chronology written by PAVE in September, 1974 and amended in February, 1975. This chronology indicates the importance of utilizing educational and vocational programs as well as the GI Bill in veteran-inmate prescriptive planning. It also indicates the importance of benefits counseling. Several goals of the chronology have already been completed. The entire chronology follows on pages four through seven.

CHRONOLOGY
SEPTEMBER 1974 - SEPTEMBER 1975

Date	Goal	
9/74	1.1.1	A video tape outlining benefits and services to veterans in the Commonwealth has been produced and is available for Bureau of Correction staff training.
9/74-continuous	1.6.1	State Correctional Institution (SCI) education and treatment staff, probation and parole persons, community treatment staff etc. receive periodic resource information via PAVE information clearinghouse.
9/74-continuous	2.9.1	Recommendations reference educational financial aid opportunities for veteran ex-offenders have been made to the Commissioner, OHE, as needed.
12/74	1.2.1	General advice has been received from Veterans Administration (VA), Department of Military Affairs-Bureau of Veterans Services (DMA-BVS), etc. reference their roles in assisting incarcerated veterans.
1/75	1.1.2	Veterans education/benefits information sessions have been held for treatment staff at each state correctional institution; resource material has been provided; procedures in which Pa. Dept. of Education (PDE), DMA-BVS, VA can assist incarcerated veterans are outlined.
	1.3.1	Multi-agency benefits information sessions have been provided to incarcerated veterans at each SCI; a needs assessment has been completed by each vet who attends; after-action reports have been written.
	1.3.2	DMA-BVS has provided discharge review information to vets with other than honorable discharges.
2/75	2.2.1	A memorandum of agreement outlining PAVE and DMA-BVS responsibilities in

SCI's has been signed and implemented.

3/75 1.3.3 Personalized follow-up interviews have been conducted with each veteran at each SCI; DMA-BVS, VA, PAVE, and SCI-education officers participate; after-action reports have been requested from participating agencies.

1.3.4 Continuous inmate counseling has been completed by DMA-BVS and VA; individual inmate caseworkers have been advised of services rendered for case file.

1.8.1 Guidelines and proposal formats for having prison GED, voc-ed, and other programs approved for veterans training (preferably on a ½ or full-time basis) have been provided to each SCI; assistance is provided as necessary.

4/75 1.4.1 VA has been requested to provide assistance to incarcerated veterans who have drug/alcohol problems, service connected physical or psychological disabilities or who need diagnostic testing.

1.7.1 On a continuous basis, the Bureau of Correction maintains listings of veterans and appropriate data.

1.8.2 Proposals have been submitted to state approving agency.

1.9.1 Provisions have been made by SCI's to hold GI Bill payments in inmates' accounts.

2.0.1 Action has been taken to insure that inmates already enrolled in college level programs have been certified for educational payments. Certification assistance has been requested from VA, DMA-BVS, and SCI's as needed.

2.8.1 Recommendations have been provided to PDE, Correction Education, reference placing inmate apprentice tradesmen in jobs via the proposed inmate placement program.

3.2.1 Coordination has been maximized between Act 101, Veterans Preparatory, and other

programs so that SCI's may recommend such programs to veteran-inmates as post-release resources.

5/75 1.2.2 Correction education subcommittee to PAVE Advisory Committee has been established.

1.5.1 The inmate veteran counseling aide program has been initiated with trained counselors at participating institutions; "tie-ins" have been made with the para-teacher program.

1.8.3 Approved proposals have been submitted to the VA by the state approving agency.

1.8.4 VA has approved programs; prisons have been advised of approval (or disapproval).

1.8.5 VA and DMA-BVS have been requested to assist in certifying inmate student-veterans for educational benefits.

1.9.1 The Bureau of Correction has been asked to encourage single inmates to save GI Bill funds for post-release purposes and married inmates (while incarcerated) to provide some funds to their dependents.

2.1.1 Guidelines for using the GI Bill in inmate prescriptive planning have been provided to the Bureau of Correction for implementation; PAVE monitors this process.

3.1.1 A report has been provided to the Chief, Correction Education, PDE, reference initiating skill training to incarcerated veterans via Pa. Assn. of Private School Administrators and the GI Bill.

6/75 2.3.1 A GI Bill educational pre-release guide has been written and provided to SCI's and DMA-BVS for implementation.

2.4.1 A GI Bill educational parole guide has been written and provided to SCI's, Board of Parole, and DMA-BVS for implementation; PAVE monitors this process.

2.6.1 Per regional need, the station house intercept concept has been implemented by the DMA-BVS.

6/75	3.0.1	*A plan to assist veterans on probation has been developed by PAVE, DMA-BVS, and VA.*
7/75	2.5.1	*An inmates handbook on veterans benefits and programs for ex-offenders has been developed and provided to SCI's for distribution.*
9/75	2.7.1	*Evidence has been received that the number of incarcerated veterans using the GI Bill for ABE, GED, voc-ed, and college level programs has increased significantly; a report has been issued.*
	2.7.2	*Evidence has been received that the number of incarcerated veterans using educational pre-release and educational parole plans has increased significantly; a report has been issued.*

Characteristics and Needs of Veteran-Inmates
in Pennsylvania State Correctional Institutions

1. WHO ARE THE VETERANS

Late in 1974 the Pennsylvania Bureau of Correction started mobilizing its efforts to gather necessary information on veterans among inmates of the eight state correctional institutions. The purpose was to identify veterans and inform them primarily of GI Bill educational benefits as well as other federal and state benefits which could be useful to them. This effort was made in conjunction with Pennsylvania Department of Education, Office of Equal Opportunity, Division of Programs to Advance Veterans Education (PAVE).

2. HISTORY AND MISSION OF PAVE

In October, 1971, Governor Milton J. Shapp hired ten Vietnam-era veterans to work regionally with postsecondary educational institutions and various agencies to motivate and assist veterans in furthering their education and training. At that time only 13.5 per cent of Pennsylvania Vietnam-era veterans were enrolled in college level programs.

PAVE developed on-campus advocacy services and out-reach programs. During 1973, 5,068 young veterans received assistance via a network of 53 college counseling centers. By mid-1974 the veterans cost of instruction, state veteran action center, and VA man-on-campus programs were initiated to meet veterans needs. PAVE was fortunate enough to assist veterans for a two to three year period prior to government agencies provision of comprehensive services per their mandate.

PAVE redefined its mission in July of 1974 to include the following priorities:

(1) Improve educational opportunities and advocacy services for veterans incarcerated in state correctional institutions.

(2) Develop veterans remedial and preparatory programs regionally on college campuses.

(3) Improve opportunities for educationally and economically deficient veterans.

(4) Improve educational opportunities for wheelchair-bound veterans.

(5) Explore methods for granting credit for life experiences.

3. JOINT EFFORT OF PAVE AND CORRECTION

Secretary of Education John C. Pittenger and Commissioner of Correction Stewart Werner signed a memorandum of agreement on July 1, 1974 which gave the Department of Education primary responsibility for administering educational programs in state correctional institutions. Late in 1974, Pennsylvania Bureau of Correction joined with PAVE to design a course of action for assisting veteran-inmates. After some initial discussion, the following plan was adopted:

During budget year 1974-75 PAVE agreed to be responsible for the development, improvement, and expansion of educational opportunities and services for veteran-inmates in the eight state correctional institutions. PAVE also agreed to seek assistance from state and federal agencies and write a chronology of service.

During November and December 1974 steps were taken to identify incarcerated veterans in the eight state correctional institutions. The

following data elements were gathered on each veteran-inmate:

(1) Name

(2) Bureau of Correction number

(3) Armed Forces Service Number

(4) Branch of Service

(5) Months of active duty

(6) Date of separation from active duty

(7) Type of discharge

(8) Type of offense committed

(9) Minimum Sentence

(10) Date of expiration of minimum sentence

(11) Age

(12) Educational level i.e., last grade completed before incarceration, or Wide Range Aptitude Test reading level, or Stanford Achievement Test.

(13) Race

(14) Prior offense committed

4. SERVICES RENDERED BY BUREAU OF VETERANS SERVICES AND VETERANS ADMINISTRATION

The Department of Military Affairs, Bureau of Veterans Services, agreed to be responsible for providing benefits counseling and advisory services to veteran-inmates and ex-offenders. The Bureau participated in initial group benefits briefings and needs assessment sessions. The Bureau also agreed to initiate the following:

(1) An early identification program in which inmates would receive GI Bill and other information at the

diagnostic and classification point. GI Bill would be used in prescriptive planning as various educational programs were approved for veterans training by the Department of Education.

(2) Assistance in making application to upgrade other-than-honorable discharges.

(3) Visit each prison at least bi-weekly.

The Veterans Administration offices in Pittsburgh and Philadelphia agreed to participate in initial group benefits briefings and needs assessment sessions. They also agreed to initiate the following:

(1) Follow-up assistance for inmates.

(2) Guidance with regard to VA laws and regulations and how they affect benefits for incarcerated veterans.

(3) Visit each prison at least twice each year; visit the Pittsburgh Institution more often, as needed.

5. STATISTICAL ANALYSIS OF VETERANS' DATA

The data collection process took nearly six weeks to complete. Since most of the data were not available in the computer files, they had to be gathered manually. Some general facts are stated below pertaining to these data elements.

As of December 31, 1974, there were 1,521 veterans among a total of 6,039 inmates in the eight state correctional institutions. This indicates that approximately 25 per cent of inmates are veterans. The actual breakdown by institutions follows:

TABLE 1: VETERAN INMATE POPULATION

INSTITUTION	*POPULATION*	*VETERANS*	*PERCENTAGE*
Camp Hill	*895*	*83*	*9*
Dallas	*745*	*143*	*16*
Graterford	*1570*	*384*	*24*
Greensburg	*179*	*55*	*30*
Huntingdon	*822*	*254*	*30*
Muncy	*173*	*13*	*7*
Pittsburgh	*879*	*285*	*32*
Rockview	*776*	*304*	*39*

Camp Hill and Muncy have remarkably low percentages of veterans because the former institution has a large percentage of juveniles and the latter is for women. Due to the nature of the security classification and the offender type for any institution, the incarcerated population at Muncy could be regarded as somewhat unique. Accordingly, the data collected on the 1,521 veterans was taken as a basis for stratified random sampling with proportional allocation. A flat 20% sample of the veteran population was chosen from each institution and estimates were made for the following:

(1) Percentage of dishonorable discharges

(2) Percentage of bad conduct, dishonorable and undesirable discharges

(3) Percentage of veterans who served in the Army

(4) Average number of months in active duty

(5) Average length of minimum sentence

(6) Average age group

(7) Average grade level of education

(8) Percentage of blacks

(9) Number of prior offenses committed

(10) Breakdown of the offense types

The statistical results are incorporated in tables 2 through 11. All results are based on a 99% confidence level.

A 100% sample was taken from each institution to gain information on the following:

(1) Breakdown of military service by war era (See Table 12)

(2) Eligibility/non eligibility for GI Bill educational benefits in prescriptive planning (See Table 13)

TABLE 2: DISHONORABLE DISCHARGE

INSTITUTION	PERCENTAGE OF DISHONORABLE DISCHARGE	ERROR OF ESTIMATE
Camp Hill	0	0
Dallas	8.0	.13
Graterford	3.9	.05
Greensburg	0	0
Huntingdon	4.0	.05
Muncy	0	0
Pittsburgh	3.5	.06
Rockview	1.7	.04
Entire Bureau Population	4.8	.22
Six Institutions (Except Camp Hill and Muncy)	3.1	0

TABLE 3: BAD CONDUCT, DISHONORABLE AND UNDESIRABLE DISCHARGE (BCD, DD, UD)

INSTITUTION	PERCENTAGE OF BCD, DD AND UD	ERROR OF ESTIMATE
Camp Hill	44	.33
Dallas	20	.20
Graterford	26	.11
Greensburg	18	.33
Huntingdon	16	.05
Muncy	33	2.24
Pittsburgh	35	.15
Rockview	23	.13
Entire Bureau Population	26.8	.31
Six Institutions (Except Camp Hill and Muncy)	24.6	0

TABLE 4: VETERANS SERVING IN ARMY

INSTITUTION	PERCENTAGE OF VETERANS IN ARMY	ERROR OF ESTIMATE
Camp Hill	44	.37
Dallas	76	.21
Graterford	64	.13
Greensburg	64	.43
Huntingdon	52	.12
Muncy	67	2.46
Pittsburgh	58	.01
Rockview	63	.15
Entire Bureau Population	61	0
Six Institutions (Except Camp Hill and Muncy)	62	0

TABLE 5: NUMBER OF MONTHS IN ACTIVE DUTY

INSTITUTION	MONTHS IN DUTY	ERROR OF ESTIMATE
Camp Hill	21	7.96
Dallas	28	7.58
Graterford	41	8.48
Greensburg	47	37.08
Huntingdon	32	6.89
Muncy	60	112.45
Pittsburgh	31	3.51
Rockview	28	4.63
Entire Bureau Population	33.2	.02
Six Institutions (Except Camp Hill and Muncy)	31.4	.02

TABLE 6: LENGTH OF MINIMUM SENTENCE

INSTITUTION	MINIMUM SENTENCE (in years)	ERROR OF ESTIMATE
Camp Hill	2.5	3.48
Dallas	3.7	1.29
Graterford	5.0	1.48
Greensburg	0.8	2.66
Huntingdon	4.0	2.33
Muncy	10.0	51.61
Pittsburgh	5.5	1.76
Rockview	2.5	1.57
Entire Bureau Population	4.0	0
Six Institutions (Except Camp Hill and Muncy)	3.8	0

TABLE 7: AVERAGE AGE

INSTITUTION	AGE (in years)	ERROR OF ESTIMATE
Camp Hill	24.2	4.50
Dallas	30.9	3.79
Graterford	37.3	2.85
Greensburg	30.7	7.80
Huntingdon	32.3	2.11
Muncy	46.3	74.24
Pittsburgh	36.0	2.55
Rockview	31.7	2.61
Entire Bureau Population	33.6	.01
Six Institutions (Except Camp Hill and Muncy)	31.9	.01

TABLE 8: AVERAGE GRADE LEVEL OF EDUCATION

INSTITUTION	GRADE LEVEL COMPLETED	ERROR OF ESTIMATE
Camp Hill	10.7	1.11
Dallas	10.3	0.86
Graterford	8.6	3.33
Greensburg	10.5	1.24
Huntingdon	10.0	0.48
Muncy	10.5	0.61
Pittsburgh	12.4	1.18
Rockview	10.0	0.63
Entire Bureau Population	10.7	0
Six Institutions (Except Camp Hill and Muncy)	10.7	0

In computing the average grade level in Table 8 above, the grade equivalence of the Wide Range Aptitude Test was used for those inmates who did not have any data pertaining to the grade level completed.

TABLE 9: PERCENTAGE OF BLACKS

INSTITUTION	PERCENTAGE OF BLACK VETERANS	ERROR OF ESTIMATE
Camp Hill	53	.35
Dallas	44	.25
Graterford	74	.12
Greensburg	27	.38
Huntingdon	36	.16
Muncy	0	0
Pittsburgh	46	.16
Rockview	33	.15
Entire Bureau Population	52	0
Six Institutions (Except Camp Hill and Muncy)	51.9	0

TABLE 10: NUMBER OF PRIOR OFFENSES

	Percentage of Inmates							
Number of Prior Offenses	Camp Hill	Dallas	Grater-ford	Greens-burg	Hunting-don	Muncy	Pitts-burgh	Rock-view
None	93	52	29	100	68	67	69	57
1	0	24	24	0	10	33	9	12
2	0	8	15	0	10	0	19	8
3	7	8	2	0	16	0	11	10
4	0	0	8	0	0	0	4	3

(TABLE 10 CONT)

5	0	4	11	0	6	0	4	7
6 or more	0	4	11	0	0	0	4	3

TABLE 11: BREAKDOWN OF OFFENSE TYPES

Offense Type	Camp Hill	Dallas	Graterford	Greensburg	Huntingdon	Muncy	Pittsburgh	Rockview
Assault	6	0	4	0	6	0	4	7
Burglary	40	28	23	19	18	0	18	13
Forgery	0	4	0	0	8	0	2	5
Homicide	12	12	29	0	22	67	36	10
Narcotics	0	4	3	18	6	0	12	10
Prison Breach	0	4	0	0	6	0	2	0
Robbery	18	32	31	0	16	0	20	21
Sex Offense	18	12	5	0	10	33	14	12
Theft	6	4	4	18	2	0	4	18
Vehicle Violations	0	0	0	18	2	0	0	2
Others	0	0	1	27	4	0	0	2

TABLE 12: BREAKDOWN OF MILITARY SERVICE BY WAR ERA

INSTITUTION	WWII N	WWII (%)	KOREA N	KOREA (%)	POST KOREA PRE VIETNAM N	POST KOREA PRE VIETNAM (%)	VIETNAM N	VIETNAM (%)	OTHER N	OTHER (%)
Camp Hill - 83	2	(2)	4	(5)	10	(12)	61	(74)	6	(7)
Dallas - 143	10	(7)	12	(8)	27	(19)	82	(57)	13	(9)
Graterford - 384	42	(11)	47	(12)	91	(24)	169	(44)	35	(9)
Greensburg - 55	2	(4)	3	(5)	7	(13)	38	(69)	5	(9)
Huntingdon - 254	12	(5)	22	(9)	47	(18)	136	(53)	37	(15)

(TABLE 12 CONT)

Muncy - 13	2	(15)	1	(8)	2	(15)	5	(39)	3	(23)
Pittsburgh - 285	35	(12)	37	(13)	77	(27)	111	(39)	25	(9)
Rockview - 304	20	(7)	19	(6)	51	(17)	183	(60)	31	(10)
TOTAL - 1521	125		145		312		785		156	
PERCENTAGE OF TOTAL BUREAU POPULATION		8%		10%		20%		52%		10%
		WWII		KOREA		POST KOREA PRE VIETNAM		VIETNAM		OTHER

TABLE 13

ELIGIBILITY/NON ELIGIBILITY FOR GI BILL EDUCATION BENEFITS IN PRESCRIPTIVE PLANNING

Institution	Eligible: Vietnam Service N	(%)	Eligible: Post Korea Pre Vietnam N	(%)	Ineligible: Korean Service N	(%)	Ineligible: Post WWII Pre Korea N	(%)	Ineligible: WWII Service or prior N	(%)	Ineligible: Less than general discharges (all wars) N	(%)	Ineligible: Less than 181 days active duty (all wars) N	(%)	Ineligible: Not separated from military service or info not available N	(%)
Camp Hill	31	(37)	5	(6)	4	(5)	0	(0)	2	(2)	20	(24)	14	(17)	7	(9)
Dallas	63	(44)	24	(17)	12	(8)	1	(1)	14	(10)	24	(17)	0	(0)	5	(3)
Graterford	112	(29)	69	(18)	36	(9)	9	(2)	38	(10)	82	(22)	12	(3)	26	(7)
Greensburg	28	(51)	7	(13)	2	(4)	0	(0)	3	(6)	4	(7)	7	(13)	4	(6)
Huntingdon	89	(35)	33	(13)	16	(6)	7	(3)	10	(4)	49	(20)	21	(8)	29	(11)
Muncy	2	(15)	0	(0)	1	(8)	1	(8)	3	(23)	4	(30)	1	(8)	1	(8)
Pittsburgh	73	(26)	49	(17)	14	(5)	5	(2)	35	(13)	69	(24)	26	(7)	14	(5)
Rockview	126	(41)	41	(13)	13	(4)	8	(3)	14	(5)	68	(22)	13	(4)	21	(7)
Entire Bureau Population TOTAL	524		228		98		31		119		320		94		107	
Percentage of TOTAL Bureau Population		(35)		(15)		(6)		(2)		(8)		(21)		(6)		(7)

TABLE 14

TYPES OF REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE

Request or Need	CAMP HILL N	DALLAS N	GRATERFORD N	GREENSBURG N	HUNTINGDON N	MUNCY N	PITTSBURGH N	ROCKVIEW N	TOTAL N
Institutional Skill Training/Education	49	175	378	34	206	8	59	131	1040
GI Bill Education Benefits (while incarcerated)	13	42	78	12	42	2	23	50	262
Post-Release Skill Training/Education	8	32	59	6	35	0	4	44	188
GI Bill Education Benefits (when released)	11	38	82	10	42	3	0	48	234
State or Federal Grants or Loans for Education (when released)	14	37	75	9	41	1	39	50	266
Emergency Assistance (family)	6	14	34	4	13	0	5	17	93
Discharge Review	22	31	53	4	60	2	25	50	247
Vietnam Bonus	3	6	23	3	9	0	1	10	55
Employment (when released)	12	31	70	7	50	1	8	39	218
Home Loan (when released)	8	28	50	8	38	1	12	49	194
Other (while incarcerated and when released)	11	10	66	9	27	2	22	37	184
TOTAL	157	444	968	106	563	20	198	525	2981

TABLE 15: FREQUENCY OF REQUESTS FOR ASSISTANCE

Number	Request or Need
1040	Institutional Skill Training/Education
266	State or Federal Granst or Loans for Education (when released)
262	GI Bill Education Benefits (while incarcerated)
247	Discharge Review
234	GI Bill Education Benefits (when released)
218	Employment (when released)
194	Home Loan (when released)
188	Post-release skill training/education
184	Other; while incarcerated and when released
93	Emergency Assistance (family)
55	Vietnam Bonus

6. GENERAL PARAMETERS OF VETERAN POPULATION

Tables 2 through 11 show the following general characteristics of veteran-inmates:

(1) Only 4.8% have dishonorable discharges while 26.8% have bad conduct, or dishonorable, or undesirable discharges

(2) 61% of the veterans served in the Army

(3) On the average, a veteran served 33.2 months in service and has 4 years of minimum sentence

(4) On the average, a veteran is 33.6 years old and has a level of education between 10th and 11th grades

(5) 52% of the veterans are black

(6) On the average, burglary and robbery are the most prevalent offenses

(7) On the average, 64% had no prior offense, 14% are first offenders, 22% had 2 or more prior offenses

All these results are derived with a 99% confidence level, and except for Table 2, the error of estimate is virtually zero. Hence the facts above are highly reliable. Since the age level of the total (veteran and non-veteran) inmate population is nearly 27 years and the grade level is approximately 5th grade, clearly the veterans indicate a higher age level and more maturity in education.

A lock at the last column (error of estimate) in each table shows that Muncy has relatively high amount of error. The reason is that Muncy is the only state correctional institution for women in Pennsylvania and only 7% (Table 1) of the population are veterans. Consequently, the sample esti-

mates for Muncy are widely divergent from those at other institutions.

Table 12 shows the following characteristics of veteran-inmates:

(1) 52% are Vietnam era veterans

(2) 20% are post-Korean but pre-Vietnam era veterans

(3) 10% are Korean era veterans

(4) 10% are post-WWII but pre-Korean era, or not separated from military service, or information is not available

(5) 8% are WWII veterans (July 1946 was used as the WWII cut-off date)

Table 13 shows the following characteristics of veteran-inmates:

(1) 50% are eligible for Vietnam era GI Bill educational benefits; 35% are Vietnam era veterans while an additional 15% are post-Korean but pre-Vietnam era who are eligible under Vietnam era GI Bill

(2) 21% are ineligible for educational benefits because of a less-than-general discharge; this figure is based on a 100% sampling and varies slightly from the 20% sampling

(3) 8% are ineligible for educational benefits because they are WWII veterans

(4) 7% are ineligible for educational benefits because they are not separated from the military service or are temporarily considered ineligible because information is not available

(5) 6% are ineligible for educational benefits because they are Korean conflict veterans

(6) 6% are ineligible for educational benefits because they have served less than 181 days of active duty

(7) 2% are ineligible for educational benefits because they are post-WWII but pre-Korean conflict veterans

In Table 13 those veterans ineligible for more than one reason were counted only once beginning with the right ineligible column and working left.

7. VETERAN-INMATES ASSESS THEIR NEEDS

Six hundred and forty-three veteran-inmates attended small group benefits briefings organized and coordinated by PAVE in January, February, and March 1975. This was accomplished with cooperation from the Bureau of Correction, Department of Military Affairs-Bureau of Veterans Services, and Veterans Administration. This figure represents 54.4% of veterans incarcerated on the briefings days. Inmates filled out Veteran Request for Assistance (need assessment) Forms following the briefings. Results of this 54.4% sampling are incorporated in Tables 14 and 15.

Tables 14 and 15 show the following:

(1) Each inmate asked for assistance in approximately 4 - 5 categories of the request for assistance form.

(2) Institutional skill training/education was the most prevalent request; many inmates indicated first, second, and third preferences for training; requests totaled 1,040.

(3) Two hundred and sixty-six requested post-release state or federal grants or loans for education

(4) Two hundred and sixty-two requested to use GI Bill benefits while incarcerated

(5) Two hundred and forty-seven requested a review of military discharge

(6) One hundred and eighty-four requested assistance on individual problems which were indicated under "other" category.

After identifying veterans and completing initial benefits briefings and needs assessment the Pennsylvania Department of Military Affairs-Bureau of Veterans Services arranged personal follow-up counseling for more than 700 veterans in a wide variety of need areas. The Veterans Administration offices in Philadelphia and Pittsburgh assisted in this follow-up.

8. WHAT NEXT

As reported in Section 3, the primary purpose of gathering data on veteran-inmates is to assist them in taking advantage of veterans educational benefits.

Veteran-inmates will be encouraged to take advantage of educational benefits. In order to be eligible a veteran must meet the following three requirements:

(1) Separated from military service under honorable conditions

(2) Separated from service after January 31, 1955

(3) 181 days active duty or more

Participation in educational programs will not be restricted by grade level completed. In view of the statistical facts reported in Section 6, 50 per cent will be eligible for GI Bill educational benefits.

The monetary value of such benefits is quite significant: $270 per month for full-time instruction and $135 per month for half-time instruc-

tion. After meeting educational expenses, a veteran can save the balance of the monthly allowance. This could provide a source of support for the veterans family or be kept in trust to meet educational (or other expenses) upon release.

In order to insure the highest success of the project, corrections staff will be encouraged to give veterans fullest consideration for enrollment in institution secondary and post-secondary programs. Prison caseworkers are following-up to enroll veteran-inmates in requested education programs. Many will not begin until summer and fall, 1975. Follow-up is being documented. The goal will be to increase significantly veterans participation in educational programs.

The Pennsylvania Department of Education will develop curriculum guidelines to have non-college academic and vocational programs approved for veterans training. Instructional hours will have to be expanded to at least 12-15 or 25-30 hours per week. The Department of Military Affairs will provide maximum assistance to incarcerated veterans and veteran ex-offenders and will visit institutions on a bi-weekly basis. Early identification of the veteran at the time of incarceration will be implemented to include the GI Bill in prescriptive planning. Educational goals will be established for each veteran-inmate to meet while incarcerated.

Pennsylvania is probably unique in that it has initiated a joint project by the state Education, Correction and Military Affairs Departments and Veterans Administration in helping incarcerated veterans help themselves.